

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0884

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 1141

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: OVIP, OEXC, CE

SUBJ: FY-74 IV PROGRAM

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: POST NOMINATES STANLEY TILLEKERANTE, SPEAKER OF THE MANTIONAL STATE ASSEMBLY AND MP FOR KOTTE, FOR ONEDAY OBSERVATION/ CONSULTATION GRANT. THE SPEAKER RANKS THIRD IN THE GSL PRECEDENCE TABLE AND AS SUCH PER DIEM SHOULD BE DETERMINED FOR CATEGORY A IN ACCORDANCE STATE A-5625 OF JULY 2, 1973.

2. TILLEKERATNE WILL BE SPENDING ONE DAY IN SAN FRANCISCO ENROUTE TO WESTERN SAMOA FROM LONDON IN CONNECTION WITH GENERAL COUNCIL MEETINGS OF COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION (CPA) OF WHICH HE IS PRESIDENT. TILLEKERATNE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY SIR ARTHUR BOTTOMLY, TREASURE OF CPA, WHO IS SENIOR MEMBER OF BRITISH LABOR PARTY AND FORMER BRITISH MINISTER OF OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT.

3. TILLEKERATNE ZGNNSAN FRANCISCO 8:04 P.M. MAY 8 VIA TWA 771 FROM LONDON AND ETD 8:08 P.M. MAY 9 VIA UAL-529 FOR WESTERN SAMOA VIA LOS ANGELES.

4. AMBASSADOR REQUESTS THAT DEPARTMENT AND SAN FRANCISCO RECEPTION CENTER EXTEND ALL APPROPRIATE
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COURTESIES INCLUDING HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS, AND MAKE EVERY

EFFORT ARRANGE SUITABLE ONEDA PROGRAM FOR SPEAKER WHO HAS NOT PREVIOUSLY VISITED U.S. EMBASSY REALIZES LIMITATIONS IMPOSED BY SHORT STAY, BUT SUGGESTS CALL ON MAYOR OR VISIT TO A COURT AND CALL ON A JUDGE, GOLDEN GATE PARK, BART AND ART COLONY AT SAUSALITO AS POSSIBILITIES. ALSO SUGGEST SRI LANKA'S HONORARY CONSUL IN SAN FRANCISCO, DAVID LONDON, BE TOLD OF TILLEKERATNE VISIT. BORN IN 1929, HE WAS PRACTICING LAWYER UNTIL ELECTION AS SPEAKER IN 1970. HE HAS BEEN MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT SINCE 1965. NO DIETARY RESTRICTIONS.

5. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: TILLEKERATNE IS PROMINENT FIGURE HERE WHO HAS TAKEN COURAGEOUS STANDS AS SPEAKER TO RESIST ENCROACHMENT ON POWERS OF LEGISLATURE AND UPHOLD JUDICIAL REVIEW. ALTHOUGH ACTIVE IN COMMUNIST PARTY DURING 1950'S AND EARLY 60'S HE JOINED PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE'S SRI LANKA FREEDOM PARTY (SLFP) IN 1965 AND HAS MOVED STEADILY TOWARD CENTRIST POSITION SINCE THAT TIME. EMBASSY ENJOYS VERY GOOD RELATIONS WITH HIM AND HE MAY BECOME CENTRAL FIGURE IN RESISTING FUTURE ATTEMPTS BY LEFTISTS TO ERODE PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM. END CONFIDENTIAL.

6. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: EMBASSY REALIZES THAT IF BOTTOMLY IS TRAVELLING WITH TILLEKERATNE THIS MIGHT CAUSE SOME EMBARRASSMENT. HOWEVER, WE HOPE DEPARTMENT CAN CHECK THIS WITH BRITISH EMBASSY AND CAN WORK OUT SOME SATISFACTORY SOLUTION.

7. WAIVER
ALREADY RECEIVED FOR TILLEKERATNE'S
INELIGIBILITY UNDER SECTION 212(A)(28) OF INA.

8. WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION THAT SAN FRANCISCO
PROGRAM FOR TILLEKERATNE HAS BEEN ARRANGED.
VAN HOLLEN

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NNN

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